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For Immediate Release  
June 15, 2006

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## **Sen. Patterson presents resolution naming today after two Olympic silver medalists from Northville**

**LANSING**—State Sen. Bruce Patterson welcomed 2006 Olympic silver medalists Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto to the state Capitol today and presented them with a Senate tribute and Senate resolution proclaiming June 15, 2006 as Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto Day in Michigan.

“Earlier this year the world watched in admiration, affection and awe as Tanith and Ben applied their remarkable skills as superb athletes in the 2006 Winter Olympic Games,” said Patterson, 7<sup>th</sup> District. “They captivated Michigan, the nation, the world. They honored us then as we honor them now.”

Belbin and Agosto are Northville residents who train at the Arctic Edge in Canton. They won the silver medal for ice dancing at the XX Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy—the first ice-dancing medal the United States has won since 1976. They have won numerous national and world competitions, and most recently they brought home the bronze medal from the 2006 World Championships.

The Senate resolution honored Belbin and Agosto for their humanitarian efforts as well as their athletic achievements. When the devastating tsunami hit Southeast Asia, they sponsored the “Skate-Aid,” a fundraiser that raised nearly \$35,000 for the American Red Cross to assist with its tsunami relief.

In March, Belbin and Agosto taught 350 children the fundamentals of skating as part of the first-ever Marshall’s Skate Fest, which enabled children to discover the joys of skating. The Senate resolution stated that “Tanith and Ben’s dedication to the future skaters of our country speaks volumes about their commitment to this sport.”

Patterson said, “Tanith and Ben’s dedication ensures that future generations will experience the thrill of twirling and jumping at local rinks with family and friends, or perhaps before television cameras in front of international audiences.”

Belbin expressed her gratitude during the Senate presentation and revealed her future plans with Agosto.

“It’s been such a great pleasure to return home from Torino and feel such a warm reception from Michigan, and now to feel truly at home here is such an honor,” said Belbin. “We are, of course, continuing on to the next Olympic Games and we hope that this is a different color next time,” she said, referring to her silver medal.

**A photo is available at:**

**<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Patterson/Patterson.htm>**

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